

Plant Forum

Symphotrichum 'Wood's Purple'

If you plant asters, the end of summer will never be dull. Just now beginning to bloom the 'Wood's Purple' aster is a compact form perfect for the container or border. Twelve to 18 inch tall plants are topped with semi-double purple flowers beginning as early as mid August and lasting thru October and even into November. The blooms are frost-proof so you don't have to worry about early frosts destroying them. The color is actually more intense in cooler weather.



Asters can be grown in light shade but produce more prolific blooms on more compact plants if sighted in full sun. Plant in well-drained, rich soil for best performance but they can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. Once established asters can withstand mild, occasional drought but should be given extra water during prolonged dry spells. The 'Wood's' asters are very resistant to powdery mildew and rust.

Wood's asters can be used in containers as either a filler or alone. They are also excellent in the front of the border backed by tall grasses like any of the Panicum cultivars. *Symphotrichum* 'Wood's Purple' attracts bees, birds and butterflies. 'Wood's' asters also come with pink or white flowers

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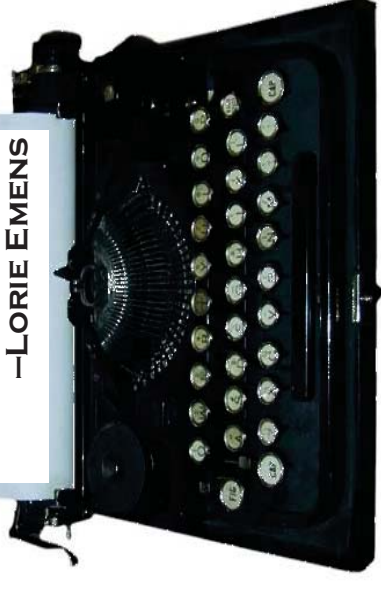
Clippings

October 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER —LORIE EMENS

Well the September meeting was certainly exciting!

It began with the presentation of the nominees for the 2010 Board of Directors. A motion came from the floor that they be elected by acclamation, it was seconded and since there were none opposed, they are now our board beginning January 1, 2010.



The Board of Directors for 2010 are:
President John Tackett
Vice President Allen Wells
Secretary Carolyn Poore
Treasurer Don Wear
Ways & Means Vicki Duggins
Membership Emelia Miekicki

Standing Committees are:

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Newsletter Editor Sharon Lusk
Floral Arrangements Donna Olswin
Refreshments Barbara Bounds
Cornelia Swain
Plant Exchange Tony Martello
Susan Thorn
Tina McWhorter
Historian Amy Berthouex
Urban Chamionship Laurie Williams
Trees

All these positions fill important functions within the Memphis Horticultural Society and the community, be sure to support them any way you can.

After the election the excitement continued with a presentation on Gardening with Native Plants by Margie Hunter. She told us about many native plants that grow well in Memphis gardens, how to grow them and why it is important. Entertaining as well as informative. As many of you know, native plants are one of my many gardening passions. They are no easier or harder to grow than other plants but they make sense. Even if the soil in our yards is not how nature intended these plants are adapted to the mid-south environment and when properly sighted (which all plants require) make wonderful additions to any garden. You probably already grow a few, even if that was not your intention, and I hope you give a few more a try.

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October's Speaker will be local landscape designer Tom Pellet. The topic will be Margaret's Garden Revisited. This should be an interesting presentation showing how a well designed garden matures over the years. The meeting will be Monday, October 5 at 7:00 at the Memphis Botanic Gardens.

Reclaiming Hope and Healing Meditation Garden from Seasons of Neglect

Hope and Healing is a comprehensive wellness facility that is part of the Church Health Center. It is located at 1115 Union in a building which over the years has been both the Baptist Healthplex and a car dealership. The Meditation Garden extends from the main entrance around the east and south sides of the building.



This fall a fountain was installed, adding the sense of sound to the sights of the garden.

During its history different groups have overseen the care of the garden. Unfortunately, in addition to seasons of care, there have also been seasons of neglect.

When we walked into it in May of 2008, it had been taken over by garlic

chives, spiderwort, and a vetch-like plant with a root like an iron carrot. It was full of dead shrubs and old seed-stalks, and the soil was too hard to hoe. An ill-tempered mockingbird dive-bombed anyone who had the nerve to go more than 20 feet into the garden, and someone with more enthusiasm than judgment had taken to some shrubs with a chainsaw.

Our first aim when we began reclaiming the garden in 2008, was simply to make it look presentable-- weeding, shaping what had been badly pruned, mulching, dividing, laying down newspaper and mulch. We tamed the giant

rosemary bush and added more herbs to that planter.

By fall of the first year, it looked like a neglected garden instead of a wasteland, and we considered that progress!

This year we have been able to build on last year's work and to do some planning. There are now mints in raised beds where someone walking by can touch them easily. We planted roses where they could be seen through the south gate on Eastmoreland. There are new, colorful plants at the main entrance for a better sense of welcome. Now that the fountain construction has been completed, we will be giving thought to that area. The staff has asked about ways to involve children from their programs in some child-friendly projects. Part of the joy of rescuing this garden has been the interest that so many people have shown. Tom Pellett donated an hour of his time to give us some thoughts about design, and many people have donated plants. Hope and Healing staff members have been unfailingly supportive, and Master Gardeners and interns have done yeoman's work. Our goal is to make this a jewel of a garden.

There is a workday for the Meditation Garden on October 31 starting at 8:00 a.m. —John Peterson



TIGUrS Grows Organic Garden As Demonstration Garden for Urban Gardeners

Have you spied the Urban Garden growing on the University of Memphis Campus? If not, visiting the garden is worth the trip.

The University of Memphis TIGUrS (Tigers Initiative for Gardens in Urban Settings) recruited many volunteers from campus and the surrounding community to construct a garden composed of 48 raised beds. Karyl Buddington, committee chairwoman and director of Animal Care Facilities at the U of M, first introduced the idea and is leading the project.

The beds were made from Green Dot Blocks. Green Dot Block look like cinder blocks but are made from 100% recycled materials. The blocks from Block USA. The blocks were stabilized with rebar to make them safe.



The beds were filled with cotton burr compost that was donated by New Delta Recyclers who are located in Tunica, MS. Several local nurseries (The StockYard, Stringer's, and Mid-Town) donated many of the plants.

In order to make the garden accessible to people with disabilities, crushed limestone purchased from Nature's Earth is being spread in the pathways that we purchased from Nature's Earth.

Some of the vegetables that were grown this year included: 3 types of eggplants, 6 types of peppers, 7 types of tomatoes, bush beans, pole beans, sunflowers, peanuts, sweet potatoes, watermelons, squash, pumpkins, and onions. Our herb beds grew: 4 types of basil, 2 types of oregano, parsley, cilantro, peppermint, lemon balm, sage, dill, fennel chives, and onions. We even grew luffa.

The garden is 100% organic.

The Urban Oasis (our garden) serves many functions including:

- TIGUrS wants to demonstrate that food can easily be grown in small areas.

Members and Friends Make Our Meetings Great! Thank You...

Thanks to all who brought food to our September meeting:

Rosa Wooddy-book winner. Barbara Bounds, Gwen Jones, Gerlene Lifer, Paul Little, Cheryl Lockhart, Linda Pittman, Carolyn Poore, Cornelia Swain and Nell Womack



The plants in your September cut flower arrangement were grown in the Dixon Greenhouse and grounds. The design WAS by Donna Olswing.

Your October arrangement contained;

<i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i>	Hairy Balls
<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	Okra 'Burgundy'
<i>Asparagus macowanii</i>	Tree Fern
<i>Celosia</i>	'Cramer's Burgundy' Cock's Comb
<i>Lisianthus</i>	'Echo Series' Lisianthus
<i>Alpinia zerumbet</i>	Variegatum 'Shell Ginger'
<i>Polianthes tuberosa</i>	'Pearl' Tuberosa
<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i>	'Prostrate Japanese 'Prostrata' Plum Yew

- It also wants to show students where food in the grocery store comes from and

- It wants to demonstrate the health benefits of eating fresh vegetables.

- Pathways and sitting areas are being designed into the landscape to provide quiet places for students to enjoy nature and unwind from the daily grind.

TIGUrS is partnering with Health and Sports Science, the School of Public Health, and the Biology Department to create learning opportunities for our students and the surrounding community.

The Urban Oasis is open to the public and can be viewed near the Field House. Parking is available on Zach Curlin Drive. A visitor's pass may be obtained at Information Center on Central slightly west of Patterson.

—Karyl Buddington

